



2016 Philosophy Statement for Hahndorf Preschool

The Preschool community has said that it values:

The Space

- Spacious learning areas
- Natural outdoor environment
- Opportunities for nature play

Communication

- Regular communication
- Regular feedback about children & their learning

Relationships

- Family values
- Inclusive
- Building relationships with the children & their families
- Family involvement

Staff

- Caring, approachable and professional
- Nurturing
- Value skills & knowledge
- Friendly

Location/ Community

- Part of the HPS community
- Part of the wider Hahndorf community
- Community involvement

Play

- Promote learning in a play-based environment
- Children involved in their learning
- Promotes language development
- Promotes social & emotional development
- Developing the whole child
- Playgroup offered as a transition to preschool

Environment

- Safe, caring and inclusive
- Nurturing
- Friendly
- Promotes learning
- Enhances social & emotional development

Children

- Help children to make choices and decisions
- Help children to problem-solve
- Children helped to develop fine & gross motor skills
- Opportunities for growth.

As staff members it is our responsibility to provide a quality play based learning environment:

Based on:

The National **'Early Years Learning Framework for Australia: Being, Belonging and Becoming'** is used as a guideline for curriculum planning.

The broad learning outcomes include:

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators

We recognise that literacy and numeracy is central to children's learning. We provide a rich environment where children are given opportunities to be read to, have their experiences written about, to write, talk, listen, to make, measure, build, problem solve, make patterns, count, order and sort - all of which develop their literacy and numeracy skills.

Play-based learning is a context for learning where by children organise and make sense of their social world, as they engage actively with people, objects and representations (EYLF).

We encourage children to learn in a variety of ways and understand that they vary in their capabilities and pace of learning. Over time we encourage children to engage with increasingly complex ideas and learning experiences, which are transferrable to other situations.

Social development is fundamental for children to accept, understand, interact and effectively work with others. We encourage each child to develop into competent, confident learners and communicators. We support their interactions with others, by teaching problem solving, modelling appropriate behaviours and valuing every conversation we have with children.

Gross and fine motor coordination activities are vital for a child's whole development. Children need to move, it helps their brain to develop and grow and is essential for the neurological connections.

We offer a play based learning environment, where children have opportunities to build on their knowledge of themselves and the world, to problem solve, make choices, interact with others, develop their imagination and develop the ability to think creatively. We encourage and praise all efforts made by children, no matter how small or trivial they seem.

Therefore the School Community expects that staff will...

Approach their responsibilities in a professional manner in order to achieve excellence by:

- treating children with respect
- being well organised, prepared and punctual
- being open with and involving parents and keeping them informed
- planning appropriate activities and curriculum to meet the needs of all children
- keeping regular records of children's development and departmental requirements
- regularly updating professional knowledge
- modelling appropriate behaviour and learning
- maintaining duty of care at all times

Contribute to the life and ethos of the school and preschool by:

- actively participating in staff meetings, on committees and at special events
- raising concerns
- operating as part of a team
- sharing ideas, skills, knowledge and resources
- lending a helping hand when needed
- respecting others feelings
- listening to what others say
- accepting decisions of the group and follow through
- following school procedures and policies
- becoming aware of what is happening and why